

UNCLASSIFIED  
MEMORANDUM

TO: Department of State (CA/OCS/ACS/AF)

FROM: AmEmbassy Addis Ababa

TAGS: CASC, ET

SUBJECT: DEATH: Disposition of Remains Report, Ethiopia

DATE: April 26, 2017

REF: 7 FAM 260

The following information is submitted in accordance with the referenced requirements.

**Part I.**

Name of Country: Ethiopia

**Part II. U.S. Embassy or Consulate Information**

U.S. Embassy Addis Ababa

P.O. Box 1014

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel: +251 11 130-6000

Fax: +251 11 124-2435

Website:

State Department Country specific information:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country.html>

State Department Travel Information:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en.html>

Registration with the Embassy:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/go/step.html/>

### **Part III. Profile of Religions of the Host Country and Religious Services available to visitors**

Country Profile: Host Country Religions (From [Background Notes](#))

Religious Activities for Visitors (From [Post Reports On Line](#) (Intranet):

### **Part IV. Funeral Directors, Mortician and Related Services Available in the Host Country**

#### **Funeral Services:**

##### *Bet-El Funeral Services*

Mr. Yared Moges

Tel: +251 911 205731 Full cost 70,000

80,000

90,000 casket, embalming and air ticket

##### *Gebregzihabher Funeral Services*

Mr. Assefa G. Egzihabher

Tel: +251 911 220559

+251 911 155386 1 cost 25,000

30,000

40,000 caskets only

**DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Embassy Addis Ababa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the following persons or firms. Names are listed alphabetically, and the order in which they appear has no other significance. Professional credentials and areas of expertise are provided directly by the funeral directors, morticians and other service providers.**

**Part V. Profile of services available in the host country regarding preparation and shipment of remains**

**a.** Disposition of Remains (general): There are five (5) refrigerated morgues in the country, all of which are located in Addis Ababa: Bethel Hospital, Korean Hospital, BeteZata Hospital, St. Gabriel Hospital, and Hayat Hospital. Embalming and autopsy services are only available at the Menelik II Hospital, also in Addis Ababa. Menelik II Hospital requires a copy of the U.S. citizen's passport biographical information page and a police report from the Addis Ababa Police. The fee for autopsy and embalming services is ETB 3000.00. Many entities discussed in this report have no written rules and regulations. Hence, some of the above rules and regulations may be subject to change.

The Hindu community in Addis Ababa performs cremation for Indian and foreign nationals upon the request of their embassy. For more information on cremation please visit the following website:

<http://thehindumahajan.org/Cremation.aspx>

**b.** Local authorities responsible for licensing funeral directors and morticians:

The Ministry of Trade and Industry licenses funeral homes and morticians in Ethiopia.

**c.** Local authorities responsible for making findings regarding the cause of death and for issuing death local certificates:

The Ethiopian Police are responsible for making findings regarding the cause of death. Death certificates can be obtained from the Kebele (local government office) where the death occurred. The Kebele needs a death certificate from the hospital.

**d. Detailed information on disposition of remains in Ethiopia:**

**(1) *Maximum period before burial of remains:***

Local law prescribes that human remains are buried within 24 hours after death regardless of whether or not the body has been embalmed. Local authorities will allow bodies embalmed within 24 hours of death to be held in cold storage for two to three days. There have also been occasions when embalming services have not been available within the 24-hour period. In previous cases, remains that have been kept in cold storage for several days pending availability of services have later been shipped out without difficulty.

**(2) *Embalming:*** The body must be embalmed at the Menelik II Hospital, which issues a mortuary certificate.

Cold storage is available in Addis Ababa (please see prior list of hospitals in Part V(a)) if necessary while flight arrangements are made.

- At Korean Hospital, the charge per night for cold storage is 600 ETB if the patient was admitted as a patient prior to death, if not, the charge per night for cold storage is 1000ETB per night and requires a death certificate with a cause of death.
- At Hayat Hospital, the charge per night for cold storage is 1000 ETB.
- At Bethel Hospital, the charge per night for cold storage is 700 ETB.
- At BeteZata Hospital, the charge per night for cold storage is 700 ETB.
- At St. Gabriel Hospital, the charge per night for cold storage is 900ETB.

**(3) *Cremation:*** Cremation is allowed in Ethiopia; if the next-of-kin (NOK) opts to have the body cremated please contact Mr. Ramendra Shah (President) or Mr. Devang Shah (Secretary) at the Hindu Community (+ 251 911-512550, + 251 911-200157) E-mail – dhshah71@gmail.com.

The Hindu Community requires the following documents:

- Death Certificate
- Copy of passport biographical information page
- Letter from the deceased person's next of kin stating that they want the person to be cremated
- Letter from the deceased person's Embassy requesting cremation service, and
- USD 1,750 to pay for the service.

Since the Hindu Community does cremation only on Saturdays, they require the documents to be submitted to them by the Tuesday before the requested date. Please visit their website for more information:

<http://thehindumahajan.org/Cremation.aspx>

After submitting the body the ashes can be collected the following day.

(4) **Caskets and Containers:** Some of the funeral service providers in Addis Ababa have caskets that meet international standards for shipment out of the country. The funeral service provider can collect the body from morgue, transport it to the airport, comply with the airline regulations, and submit the casket to the airline ready to be transported.

(5) **Exportation of Human Remains:** It is possible to export remains out of the country. However, the body must be embalmed and the following documents are required: a mortuary certificate issued by the hospital, consular report of death abroad (CRDA), a local death certificate, the address where the body should be shipped, and a color copy of the deceased's passport. The casket should be zinc-lined as per the airline standard.

The remains of persons who have died of the following causes may not be embalmed or exported (unless immediately cremated and the ashes exported) and must be buried in a cemetery nearest the place of death: anthrax, malignant pustule; plague; Asiatic cholera; exanthematic typhus; and smallpox.

(6) **Exportation of Human Cremains/ Ashes:** It is possible to export human cremains out of the country. However, the Hindu Community who does the cremation does not facilitate exportation of the ashes. The total amount of the ashes varies from 100 kg to 200 kg. The next of kin will decide the amount of ashes to be transported. If there are any remaining ashes, the Hindu Community can arrange for disposal.

To ship human ashes, the airlines require the following documents from the Embassy.

Death Certificates (hospital, local and CRDA)

Mortuary certificate

Certificate from the Crematorium

Letter from the Crematorium confirming the contents of the urn are the ash from the cremated body.

(7) **Costs:** Charges are based on the exchange rate of May 15, 2013: \$1.00 = 18.52 ETB and are estimated and subject to change. The average weight of casket and containers required for export of remains is 250 kg (550 lbs). The following rates pertain to air shipment from Addis Ababa to various points in the continental United States. All prices are quoted in U.S. dollars.

**Lufthansa Cargo Service** rates per kilo for human remains (Coffin/Ashes):

ADDIS ABABA to:

	Coffin	Ashes
New York	\$10.15	\$18.50
Washington, DC	\$10.55	\$19.25
Chicago	\$11.10	\$20.40
Dallas	\$11.40	\$21.05
Los Angeles	\$12.10	\$22.40
Houston	\$11.40	\$21.05
Seattle	\$12.20	\$22.55
Minneapolis	\$11.30	\$20.80

To transport human ashes up to 12 kg to the above U.S. destinations costs approximately USD 240.00 and for a coffin less than 7kg the minimum charge is USD 90.00.

Please note that USD 4.00 per Air Waybill is to be added on all charges.

**Ethiopian Airlines Cargo Service** rates per kilo for human remains (Coffin/Ashes)

- Fuel and insurance surcharge is USD 0.65 per kg.
- Air Way Bill charge is USD 4.00 per Air Way Bill.
- Security Screening charge is USD 0.070/kg

Addis Ababa to Washington:

	<u>Coffin</u>	<u>Ashes</u>
Minimum charge	USD 70.00	USD 70.00
Normal charge	USD 8.71/kg	USD 8.71/kg
+ 45kg	USD 6.69/kg	USD 6.69/kg
+ 100 kg	USD 5.22/kg	USD 5.22/kg
+ 300 kg	USD 4.53/kg	USD4.53/kg

Ashes: To transport ashes by air weighing 6 kg. (13.2 lbs) or less to the above destination is the same (USD 70.00) if it is less than 45 kg. The rate decreases when the kg increases.

(8) **Exhumation and Shipment:** The procedure for exhumation and shipment starts from the Kebele (local authority) and police station where the remains were interred. Once the Embassy receives authorization from both the Kebele and local police station, the remains may be taken to Menelik II Hospital for embalming.

Exhumation can be done no earlier than two (2) years from the death of a person dying of a non-contagious disease and not earlier than three (3) years if the cause of death was one of the contagious diseases: anthrax, malignant pustule, plague, Asiatic cholera, exanthematic typhus, and smallpox.

Cost of shipment of exhumed remains cannot be estimated, as this service has not hitherto been provided. Presumably, costs would approximate those cited above for preparation and shipment of remains, in addition to costs associated with exhumation.

(9) **Local Customs Regarding Funerals, Disposition of Remains, Mourning, Memorial Services:**

These customs vary from place to place and from religion to religion.

A formal memorial service is not customary in Ethiopia. More likely, close relatives and friends gather and remember the deceased for a number of days after the funeral.

Most of the time the funeral happens within 24 hours of death and the body is usually buried in a local cemetery. Ethiopians do not cremate the body.